



Agreement Number:

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Between the  
Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands  
and the  
(fire department or district name)**

This memorandum of understanding is made by and between \_\_\_\_\_, hereinafter referred to as the "Department" or "District" as appropriate, and the State of Utah, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, hereinafter referred to as "Division" as an addendum to the \_\_\_\_\_ County Cooperative Agreement. "Department" or "District" and "Division" shall hereafter be referred to jointly as "the parties".

**PURPOSE OF THIS** Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): to provide a mechanism for procurement, use and compensation for services provided by the fire department or district outside its jurisdictional area of responsibility to the State of Utah and its cooperators; pursuant to cooperative agreements, operating plans, closest forces agreements and suppression resource needs in support of fire suppression.

This MOU may also be used for the purposes of procuring personnel and equipment for the purposes of other fire management activities under the direction of the Division such as fuels mitigation and prescribed fire projects both inside and outside of the department or district's jurisdictional area. Any project work done for federal agencies must be done under the conditions of a separate agreement.

**WITNESSETH:**

WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the State of Utah and it's cooperators to have wildland fires detected and suppressed quickly before they become large and more difficult to control; and

WHEREAS the Department or District may have the capability to respond and suppress fires under the jurisdiction of the Division and/or its cooperators in a more timely and effective basis than any other assets or resources in the state; and

WHEREAS the Department or District may have the capabilities and resources to assist the Division with fire hazard mitigation projects that mutually benefit both parties;

WHEREAS the Department or District represents that it is a duly constituted fire department, fire district, or non-profit association or political subdivision of the State of Utah authorized to provide fire protection within the boundaries of the **map attached** hereto and by reference made a part hereof (Appendix A); and

WHEREAS the Department or District may also have a limited number of units of firefighting equipment that can be made available to the Division for fire management work.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties to this agreement do hereby agree as follows:

#### **THE DIVISION AGREES:**

1. To provide personnel and wildland firefighting resources inside the incorporated jurisdictional boundary of the Department or District when deemed available by the Division, and when the Department or District has exhausted its own resources or capabilities and has requested assistance from the Division and / or its cooperators. Payment for the Division's and cooperator resources will be based upon the suppression resources furnished at the actual cost of those resources to the Division.
2. To make available organizational training, and technical assistance and other expertise as available to the Department or District.
3. To make available such firefighting equipment as can be obtained and is suitable for the use of the Department or District in fire management work through programs such as Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP) by custodial agreement and the terms set forth in the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement with the Counties through out Utah.
4. To produce, update and distribute a handbook or manual that references rates, procedures and other references associated with this MOU.
5. To provide necessary forms as needed by the Department or District in executing its responsibilities under this agreement to the Division.
6. That the Department or District may refuse to furnish personnel and equipment when requested by the Division if by doing so it would reduce the Department or District resources to a level where they could no longer maintain an adequate level of fire protection on lands within its jurisdictional boundary or service area.
7. The Department or District may purchase wildland firefighting equipment and supplies through the Division's procurement system.
8. To inspect to Department or District's equipment annually or prior to use for mechanical soundness, safety and equipment inventory pursuant to NWCG guidelines and standards. This inspection does not replace the safety inspection required for vehicle license and registration by the State of Utah.

#### **THE DEPARTMENT OR DISTRICT AGREES:**

1. To provide the Division Area Office with a written report on all known wildland fires in which the Department or District wishes to be reimbursed within 30 days of occurrence along with other documentation related to billing. The report information is required for payment. Note: if a state or federal representative is on-scene, that person may relieve the Department or District of this requirement.
2. The Department or District may be requested to engage in fire management activities outside of the Department or District's jurisdictional boundaries or service area, such as another district, state or county, provided that, in doing so, would not reduce Department or District's resources to a level where Department or District could no longer maintain an adequate level of fire protection on lands within its own jurisdictional boundary or service area.
3. To maintain and make available for use at the request of the Division, a work force and equipment subject to the provisions of this agreement, the FD manual and the Cooperative Fire Rate Agreement (Finance-100).

4. To accept direction and supervision by the Division or duly authorized representatives or NWCG or equivalent qualified cooperators while engaged in suppression activities at the Division's request. Also, to comply with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) for protocol on the incident.
5. To maintain the following documentation on-board all vehicles listed on the Cooperative Fire Rate Agreement:
  - A current equipment inventory list
  - Letter of Cooperator verification
  - A copy of the Cooperative Fire Rate Agreement
  - A copy of this MOU
  - Division's Cooperator Manual
  - Pre-use inspection
  - Vehicle registration and proof of vehicle insurance
6. To provide a roster of qualified "red carded" personnel to the Division Area Office prior to each fire season. Each firefighter engaging in direct fire suppression or prescribed fire must have a current "red card" in their possession while working under this MOU. Details are found in the Division's Fire Department Manual and Rate Book.
7. To submit claims for reimbursement to the Division within **thirty (30) days** after release of its work force and/or equipment in the manner and form prescribed by the Division.
8. To maintain wildland fire training qualifications and equipment standards as set forth by the Division. Personnel requested for structure protection on wildland urban interface or similar fires will be qualified to the level required for their structural firefighting position **and** basic wildland firefighter.
9. The Department or District shall provide the following insurance with a carrier authorized to conduct business with the State of Utah:
  - a. Workers' Compensation - Statutory for State of Utah
  - b. Employers' Liability;
    - i. \$100,000 each accident;
    - ii. \$100,000 each employee disease; and
    - iii. \$500,000 each policy limit disease
  - c. Commercial general liability limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and general aggregate limit. The policy shall contain a serviceability of interest provision, amount shall include coverage for:
    - i. Bodily injury;
    - ii. Property damage;
    - iii. Prevision liability; and
    - iv. Personal injury.
  - d. Commercial automobile insurance of \$1,000,000 combined single limit for each occurrence for all owned, hired or non-owned vehicles, applicable to claims arising from bodily injury or death or any person or property damage arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of any vehicle.
  - e. Annual Certificate of Insurance shall be provided to the Division as evidence that policies providing the required coverage and limits are in full force and effect.

## IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED:

1. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Division, the State of Utah and the Department of Natural Resources and the Department or District mutually agree to defend, indemnify and hold each other and their agents and employees harmless from and against all claims, damages, losses and expenses relating to, arising out of, resulting from, or alleged to have resulted out of any fire management activity conducted pursuant to this agreement, except that each party shall bear liability for its own intentional and negligent acts or omissions and the intentional and negligent acts or omissions of its employees or agents.
2. That claims arising from weight and balance, structural modifications and gross vehicle weight of any vehicle subject to this MOU are the sole responsibility of the Department or District to whom the vehicle belongs or possesses by agreement. The Division and its cooperators shall be held harmless by the Department or District whose vehicles are involved for any liabilities, damage, injury or claims that arise from the use and involvement of said equipment in the fighting of fires or other official use as provided for in this MOU. Any vehicles, including FEPP that the Department or District deems not suitable for the purpose of fire suppression shall be taken out of service immediately and removed from the Cooperative Rate Agreement.

To pay and reimburse the Department or District for fire management support services, which include equipment and personnel listed on the Cooperative Rate Agreement, at the rates established by the Division; provided, however, that payment for fire suppression shall be made only for such activities on land outside the Department or District's established jurisdictional boundaries or mandated service area, when requested by the agency having jurisdiction. Upon mutual agreement between the County and the Division, the Department or District may receive reimbursement for services for extended attack within their own service area on unincorporated private lands. Payment for prescribed fire and fuels work may be made for services both inside and outside of the department or district's area of jurisdiction.

3. The Department or District will also be reimbursed for fires on state or federal wildlands within its geographical boundaries or service area, unless as described in #5 below, when the Division requests services. Although, suppression action may occur under closest forces or mutual aid in order to protect the Department or District's jurisdiction or neighboring jurisdictions during initial attack, reimbursement under this MOU should not be assumed.
4. The Department or District agrees to only bill for back fill of career overhead firefighters such as Engine Boss, EMTs, Task Force and Strike Team Leaders or other overhead positions filled by career firefighters as approved by the Division, at a rate equal to or less than the wage of the firefighter assigned under this MOU.
5. Suppression action taken on state owned land within the incorporated boundaries of a town or city is not eligible for reimbursement under this agreement. All suppression activities in the incorporated towns and cities are the responsibility of the town or city.
6. Resources will be tracked by the local Interagency Fire Center by use of systems such as ROSS or WildCad. Resources covered under this agreement shall comply with ICS/NIMS demobilization procedures and not "self demobilize" from the assigned incident. The Division's area duty officer must approve dispatches outside of the local Interagency Fire Center dispatch zone.
7. Radio communications equipment standards under this agreement shall be narrow band (12.5 mhz) compliant. Resources being utilized within a "local area" only must have the

capability of communicating by radio with the local Interagency Fire Center via the appropriate radio repeaters as well as communicate with field units on pre-programmed tactical and air to ground frequencies. Resources made available for dispatch outside of the local area shall have the ability to program all radios in the field.

8. Staffing of ordered equipment shall follow the standard staffing identified in the Cooperative Rate Agreement. However, if standard staffing cannot be achieved, a deduction will occur on the invoice **or** the equipment may be released for failure to comply with the terms of the Cooperative Rate Agreement. Staffing that exceeds the standard staffing identified in the Cooperative Rate Agreement or extra personnel must be approved at the time of the dispatch request. Staff that does not meet the NWCG minimum staffing requirements will not be reimbursed.
9. Support and Command vehicles shall only be eligible for compensation if ordered and approved by the Division on a case-by-case basis. Support and Command vehicles must appear on the Department or District's Cooperative Rate Agreement.
10. Payment to the Department or District will be made for services rendered. The Division will not be responsible for distribution of funds to individuals or entities other than the party to this agreement.
11. That the Department or District will be hired and reimbursed as set forth in a Cooperative Rate Agreement (Finance-100) attached hereto as Exhibit B, from the Division.
12. Equipment under Cooperative Fire Rate Agreement will not receive reimbursement for loss, damage or destruction of equipment due to ordinary wear and tear or loss. Damage which occurs as the result of driver / operator negligence or poor maintenance will be the responsibility of the department / district.
13. Replacement of expendable supplies such as, but not limited to foam concentrate, MRE's, backfiring fuses etc. may be replaced by the incident by use of a general message form or use of the Fire Incident Replacement form and approved by the line supervisor or a Division representative.
14. Amendments: This agreement may be modified only by a written amendment signed by the parties. However, if mutually agreed, the parties may enter into specific supplemental, written agreements, subject to appropriate approvals, to accomplish the goals of this agreement and to carry out its terms and conditions.
15. Cancellation: The either party may terminate this agreement by written notice given to the other party, thirty (30) days in advance of the effective date of such termination.
16. Nondiscrimination: The parties' performances under this agreement shall be without discrimination as to race, color, creed, sex, or national origin.
17. Notices: All notices required by this agreement shall be in writing delivered to the person and address specified below or to such other persons or addresses as either party may designate to the other party by written notice.

## **DEFINITIONS**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Closest Forces:         | The use of the closest available appropriate qualified firefighting resources, regardless of agency, for initial attack.  |
| Mutual Aid:             | Reciprocal emergency response agreement between jurisdictional neighbors in which assistance is rendered. Traditionally this is done at no cost to the receiving agency.  |
| Cooperator(s):          | Cooperator under this agreement means agencies, entities or other stakeholders, other than the parties to this agreement, that agree to work or operate in a cooperative manner under written agreement with the Division toward common objectives such as fire suppression.  |
| Department or District: | Refers to the fire department or fire district that is party to this MOU.   |
| NWCG:                   | The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) is made up of the USDA Forest Service; four Department of the Interior agencies: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); and State Forestry agencies through the National Association of State Foresters. The purpose of NWCG is to coordinate programs of the participating wildfire management agencies so as to avoid wasteful duplication and to provide a means of constructively working together. Its goal is to provide a more effective execution of each agency's fire management program. The group provides a formalized system to agree upon standards of training, equipment, qualifications, and other operational functions. |
| FEPP:                   | Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program, Federal property, originally purchased for use by a Federal agency, but no longer needed by that entity, is acquired by the USDA Forest Service for loan to one of the 50 States or the Territories for use in the State's rural or wildland fire protection program. As a result, the equipment stays in service to the United States, protecting lives and property across the nation. The Federal Government retains the title. The property must be returned to Federal Government when no longer used within the fire program.  |
| Independent Action:     | Action taken on lands under the protection responsibilities of another agency/entity without the notification and approval, of that agency or entity.   |
| Fire Management:        | all activities required to manipulate wildland fire in order to protect values at risk, enhance public safety and meet land management objectives. Activities may include but are not limited to: fire suppression, prescribed fire, prevention and education, hazardous fuel mitigation, training, planning and preparation.   |

## SIGNATURES

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Department or District:</b> | Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands |
| <b>Address:</b>                | <b>Address:</b>                            |
| <b>Phone #:</b>                | <b>Phone #:</b>                            |
| <b>Authorized Agent:</b>       | <b>Authorized Agent:</b>                   |
| <b>Authorized Signature:</b>   | <b>Authorized Signature:</b>               |
| <b>Date:</b>                   | <b>Date:</b>                               |

**County Representative:**

**Date:**

**List of Appendixes:**

- A. Department or District Jurisdictional Boundary Map
- B. Completed Cooperative Rate Agreement